

How do these pronouncements apply to the political situation in 1688? Like Macaulay, the Whigs did not discuss the abstract question, but they had no doubt that there were limits to military obedience, and that the refusal of the officers to obey the orders of the King was justifiable.

One of the first acts of the Convention was to vote that 'the thanks of this House be given to the officers, soldiers, and mariners, in the army and fleet, for having testified their steady adherence to the Protestant religion, and being instrumental in delivering this kingdom from popery and slavery/ ¹

In this vote the navy was coupled with the army. Many officers and sailors were opposed to the King's policy but circumstances prevented the open manifestation of their hostility and kept their plots from coming to a head.

Hence the action of the malcontents was retarded and the defection of the navy followed that of the army.

Instead of accompanying It. In the summer of 1688 James sent out a squadron of twenty ships under Sir Roger Strickland

to observe the motions of the Dutch fleet, but Strickland's

fleet was only half-manned, and the celebration of the mass on board his flagship nearly caused a mutiny. On

October 1 Strickland was superseded by Lord Dartmouth,

and at the same time the fleet was raised to about forty

ships. It was however very doubtful whether

the fleet
would fight. William hoped it would not. ' You
must be
already sensible/ said his letter to the officers
and sailors,
' that you are only made use of as
instruments to bring
both your selves and your country under
popery and
slavery. . . . And therefore wee hope that God
will put it In
your hearts at this time to redeeme your
selves, your

¹ Feb. i, 1689. Archibell Grey, Debates of the House of
Commons (1763),
ix. 41.